

JUL 13 2007

Application No. 10/743,147
Amendment dated July 13, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 13, 2007

Docket No.: 3722-0174P

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain present in this application.

The specification has been amended. Claims 3-5 and 8-10 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over Kitayama, U.S. Patent 7,035,175. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As well defined in the MPEP 2131, "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Examiner asserts that column 4, lines 19-30 of Kitayama reads on the step of "selecting a largest value from the data of the optical signal and setting the center level of the center error CE responding to the largest optical signal as a center error offset," in claim 1 of the present application. Kitayama, however, is directed to a method for compensating DC offset (i.e., the offsetting of a signal from zero) of the tracking error (TE). This is unlike claim 1 of the present application, which is directed to a method for calibrating a center error (CE) offset in a control system of an optical drive.

It is noted that a center error signal differs from a tracking error signal. To control the movement of a lens on the track, *tracking error* is utilized to control the lens actuator. As the lens follows the spiral track, the sled does not move, and a radial offset of the objective lens, i.e.,

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the center error (CE) is generated which deteriorates the optical property. The CE signal may therefore serve as an error signal for controlling a sled to keep the center error CE signal or the radial offset of the objective lens in an acceptable range. *The object of using the CE signal to control the sled is to maintain the radial offset of the objective lens within an acceptable range.* To obtain a good optical property, the CE offset must be calculated before executing the control of the sled using the CE signal.

The object of calibrating the CE offset for controlling the sled (i.e., to maintain the radial offset of the objective lens within an acceptable range) is therefore clearly different from that of calibrating a TE offset (i.e., to control the lens on the track center).

With reference to column 4, lines 19-37 of Kitayama, this patent teaches using the estimated value of the lens optical axis shifting amount to compensate the DC offset of the tracking error (TE). In addition, Kitayama teaches detecting the maximum and minimum value of the TE signal to obtain the DC level of the TE signal, for compensating the TE signal. This is unlike the present application, in which the positions of the different lens are adjusted and an amplitude of the optical signal (for example, the TE signal) is observed according to the position of each lens, so that when the largest amplitude of the optical signal is obtained, the DC level of its corresponding CE signal will be used to the CE offset.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Kitayama does not teach or suggest "selecting a largest value from the data of the optical signal and setting the center level of the center error CE responding to the largest optical signal as a center error offset," as is set forth in independent claim 1 of the present application. Independent claim 6 sets forth similar limitations and, as such, should also be allowable over the prior art.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art utilized by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the method and system of independent claims 1 and 6, as well as their dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion


Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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